

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA  
April 25, 2006**

**Present:** Commissioners Lythgoe and Notbohm; Harold Stepper, County Planner; Mike Hoffman, Assistant Planner; Tony Colter and Sherm Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber; Tim Baker, Montana Wildlife Association; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor/Jefferson County Courier*  
**Absent:** Commissioner Weber

**CALENDAR REVIEW**

- 4/25 LEPC - 6:00
- 4/26 Jefferson River Watershed - Twin Bridges - 7:00
- 4/27 Safety Committee - 9:00  
Northern Jefferson County Zoning Commission - Montana City - 7:00
- 4/28 CSAA - Helena - 10:00

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**FIRE COUNCIL**

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that he attended the Fire Council meeting in Montana City on Tuesday night. He took with him a draft letter explaining that all county residents are not necessarily in a fire district, and advising them to find out if they do reside within a fire district. The letter will go out to all residents in the November tax bills.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD/ ELECTED OFFICIAL MEETING**

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that there was a Department Head/Elected Official meeting on Thursday. They discussed the new health insurance plan the county is looking into. It was decided that the employees needed the ability to vote on this, and there will be a ballot in the next paycheck.

**MTAG**

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that at the MTAG meeting they discussed some things that the JLDC is looking forward to regarding economic development, such as the business park. Tunnels still doesn't know if they will continue to operate, and there are three plans on the table. They have extended the WARN act to May 15<sup>th</sup>, and have the ability to extend it twice more.

They are waiting to see what corporate is going to do, but management is still optimistic that operations will continue.

#### TSEP BRIDGE PROGRAM

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that Bill Lloyd of Great West is still looking for letters of support for the bridge program.

#### SOLID WASTE BOARD

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the Solid Waste Board has decided to open the metal piles again. They still need a plan for the DEQ. The metal pile will not be open to the public until at least July 1.

#### FUND-RAISER

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that he attended the black tie/blue jeans fund-raiser in Whitehall on Friday night.

#### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that the Commissioners met the previous day with the Treasurer and the Department of Revenue. Patty was concerned that there is not a complete listing of mobile homes in the county. It was found to be a training issue, and the list is up-to-date now and Patty is satisfied that this is taken care of. Commissioner Notbohm stated that they have also come up with a better form for recording. He noted that he was surprised by how many mobile homes there are in Jefferson County.

#### JUVENILE DETENTION

Commissioner Notbohm reported that he attended a Juvenile Detention meeting in Galen on Thursday. Jefferson County is in better financial shape this year than in the past two, and the budget for the coming fiscal year will be the same as this year.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE

Commissioner Notbohm stated that regarding the new health insurance proposal, he had a request from the Clerk and Recorder's office to check references. He got a list of the Montana counties that are insured with this company, and so far, the people he has spoken with have given good reports.

#### SUBDIVISION REVIEW

##### PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL - BROWN'S MINOR SUBDIVISION

Mike Hoffman, Assistant Planner, presented his staff reported and recommended that preliminary plat approval be granted. Commissioner Notbohm asked if everything is okay with the roads. Mike stated that the developer has an approach permit from the Department of Transportation. Commissioner Notbohm moved to grant preliminary plat approval. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. The motion carried.

#### ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE LAND FOR BOYD ANDREW

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that this will not be discussed at this meeting. A draft lease has been sent to Boyd Andrew, and some changes need to be made. This will be placed on a future agenda.

CLERK OF COURT MARILYN CRAFT TO PRESENT COMMISSION WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE REFINISHING OF THE TABLES IN THE COURTROOM

Marilyn Craft stated that she received some information from the Judge's assistant there are funds available from the state to refinish the tables. However, the state would like the County to also make a contribution. She spoke with a friend who does restorations, and received a high estimate of \$1000 per table. Commissioner Notbohm asked if the prison shop is still in the furniture business. Marilyn stated that she has heard conflicting reports on that. Commissioner Lythgoe asked how much money Marilyn is asking for; Marilyn stated that they would take as much as she can get. Commissioner Lythgoe asked how much the State committed to. Marilyn stated that the e-mail she received wasn't clear. She needs to get three estimates. She has also contacted someone at the Montana Heritage Commission to see if additional funds might be available from them. Commissioner Lythgoe moved to agree to pay half of the cost of refinishing the two courtroom tables. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH FOR SUN MOUNTAIN (POWER POINT PRESENTATION)

Tony Colter and Sherm Anderson with Sun Mountain Lumber and Tim Baker with the Montana Wilderness Association came to give a presentation of data gathered by Ecosystem Research Group. Sherm Anderson stated that the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan brought them to this point, that they hire ERG to study. They have submitted a fairly extensive proposal to the Forest Service, and they testified in Missoula at a public hearing called by Senator Burns. They have drafted a proposal that they would like Beaverhead-Deerlodge to adopt. He stated that this is out-of-the-box thinking. This is a partnership between Sun Mountain Lumber and the Montana Wildlife Association, Trout Unlimited, and the National Wildlife Federation, as well as other logging companies. They are going to the affected counties to present their plan and get feedback. He asked if the Commissioners had commented on the Forest Plan. Commissioner Notbohm stated that Commissioner Weber has been working on this. The Commission has some concerns with the inability to harvest timber. Sherm stated that beetles and bug kill are a major concern. Commissioner Notbohm commented that the "w" word, wilderness, is also a major concern, and the Commission has been dealing with roads and access issues.

Sherm stated that their strategy with this plan, by taking on conservation groups as partners, would obviously be some give-and-take needed. Tony Colter stated that they are also meeting with motorized recreation groups to get their feedback, although they concentrated on logging issues.

They then did a PowerPoint presentation which included what points of the Forest Plan they agree with, bug infestation maps, the preferred alternative and the rationale behind it and why it is

likely to fail. They also outlined their strategy and compared the Forest Service's alternative 5 and the partnership's strategy side-by-side.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked what they regard suitable timber, noting that there is some opinion that there is not a lot in Jefferson County; what is marketable timber in Jefferson County. Sherm noted that they have a map that identifies the suitable timber. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if there is any market for bug-kill timber. Sherm stated that it depends on how old it is; they can use it if it was caught in the first two years.

Commissioner Notbohm what they would like the Commission to do. Tony stated that would like the Commission's support of the proposal, which they feel is a balanced approach. Sherm stated that they tried to get a balance with all parties involved. They hope to get the plan to the masses; if so, it will be very difficult for the Forest Service not to listen. They are trying to stop the gridlock that has tied things up for years. He noted that there is enough bug-kill timber in the Butte area to supply his mill for two to three years. The Forest Service's proposal to manage the Beaverhead-Deerlodge is with fire, and this is asking for trouble.

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that when they show the map of where the current roads are and what roads they want, they are going to have problems. The Commission agrees that not all the roads need to be there. He also agrees that there needs to be a partnership; lawsuits by environmental groups have caused the Forest Service not to be able to do some things that should be doing. Every time they propose something, the environmentalists sue; participation is needed. Commissioner Notbohm stated that this needs to be done sooner rather than later. These lawsuits also need to be dealt with in Montana rather than San Francisco.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

### **ATTEST:**

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**BONNIE RAMEY  
CLERK AND RECORDER**

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**TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR**

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**CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER**

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**KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER**